Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-14, 16, 19, 21, and 22 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an optical imaging unit that converts ~~an optical~~ a currently viewed object image into ~~electronic~~ object image data;

a storage medium that stores ~~electronic~~ sample image data corresponding to a plurality of sample images;

an operating member that selects one of the plurality of sample images;

a monitor that displays the currently viewed object image and the sample image ~~images~~ based on ~~electronic~~ the object image data and the sample image data, said monitor simultaneously displaying the sample image selected by said operating member and the currently viewed ~~an~~ object image ~~based on the~~ corresponding to the object ~~electronic~~ image data, wherein said object image data is not yet stored on said storage medium;

a switch that instructs the imaging apparatus to ~~record~~ store the ~~electronic~~ object image data obtained by said imaging unit ~~in~~ on said storage medium that corresponds to the object image displayed by the monitor; and

a control circuit that saves, in said storage medium, the ~~electronic~~ object image data such that the ~~electronic~~ object image data is associated with the sample image simultaneously displayed on said monitor with the currently viewed object image according to an operation of said switch.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a second storage medium that stores ~~electronic~~ object image data, wherein said control circuit saves in said second storage medium the ~~electronic~~ object image data such that the ~~electronic~~ object image data is associated with the sample image displayed on said monitor according to the operation of said switch.

4. (Original) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said storage medium stores additional data associated with each of the plurality of sample images, the additional data including respective imaging conditions suitable for capturing the plurality of sample images.

5. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said control circuit controls an image capture operation of said optical imaging unit in accordance with the imaging condition included in the additional data associated with the sample image simultaneously displayed therewith on said monitor.

6. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a reader that reads ~~electronic~~ sample image data corresponding to a sample image from an external storage medium; and

a selector that selects whether said control circuit controls operation of said imaging apparatus so as to display on said monitor the sample image read from said external storage medium or one of the plurality of sample images from said storage medium.

7. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an <u>optical</u> imaging unit that converts <u>a currently viewed object</u> ~~an optical~~ image into ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data;

a reader that reads <u>sample image data corresponding to</u> a plurality of sample images from an external storage medium;

an operating member that selects one of the plurality of sample images;

a monitor that displays <u>the currently viewed object image and the sample image</u> ~~images~~ based on ~~electronic~~ <u>the object image data and the sample</u> image data, the monitor <u>simultaneously</u> displaying the sample image selected by said operating member ~~and an~~ <u>and the currently viewed</u> object image ~~based on the electronic~~ <u>corresponding to the object</u> image data<u>,</u> ~~simultaneously~~ <u>wherein said object image data is not yet stored on said external storage medium</u>;

a switch that instructs to ~~record~~ <u>store</u> the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data obtained by said imaging unit on said external storage medium <u>that corresponds to the object image displayed by the monitor</u>; and

a control circuit that saves<u>,</u> in said external storage medium<u>,</u> the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data such that the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data is associated with the sample image <u>simultaneously</u> displayed on said monitor <u>with the currently viewed object image</u> according to an operation of said switch.

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8. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said reader is capable of writing data to said external storage medium, and wherein said control circuit controls said reader so as to save in the external storage medium ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data such that the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data is associated with the sample image displayed on said monitor according to the operation of said switch.

9. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a second storage medium that stores ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data, wherein said control circuit saves in said second storage medium the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data such that the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data is associated with the sample image displayed on said monitor according to the operation of said switch.

10. (Original) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said reader reads additional data associated with the sample image, the additional data including an imaging condition suitable for capturing the sample image.

11. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said control circuit controls an image capture operation of said <u>optical</u> imaging unit in accordance with the imaging condition included in the additional data.

12. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said reader reads ~~electronic~~ <u>sample</u> image data corresponding to a plurality of sample images from said external storage medium, and further reads additional data associated with the plurality of

sample images, the additional data including respective imaging conditions suitable for capturing the plurality of sample images.

13. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said control circuit controls operation of said imaging apparatus so as to simultaneously display on said monitor the object image and one of the plurality of sample images, and controls an image capture operation of said ~~optical~~ imaging unit in accordance with the image condition included in the additional data associated with the sample image simultaneously displayed on said monitor.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an imaging apparatus, the method comprising:

converting a currently viewed object ~~an optical~~ image captured by an optical imaging unit into ~~electronic~~ object image data;

reading from an external storage medium sample image data corresponding to a plurality of sample images;

selecting with an operating member one of the plurality of sample images;

displaying on a monitor the currently viewed object image and the sample image ~~images~~ based on the object image data and the sample ~~electronic~~ image data, the monitor simultaneously displaying the sample image selected in said selecting step and the currently viewed ~~and an~~ object image corresponding to the object ~~based on the electronic~~ image data, wherein said object image data is not yet stored on said external storage medium;

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instructing with a switch to ~~record~~ <u>store</u> the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data obtained by the imaging unit ~~in~~ <u>on</u> the external storage medium <u>that corresponds to the object image displayed by the monitor</u>; and

saving<u>,</u> in the external storage medium<u>,</u> the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data such that the ~~electronic~~ <u>object</u> image data is associated with the sample image <u>simultaneously</u> displayed on the monitor <u>with the currently viewed object image</u> according to said instructing step.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an imaging apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising reading additional data from the storage medium, the additional data including an imaging condition associated with the sample image read from the storage medium, and controlling an image capture operation of the <u>optical</u> imaging unit based on the additional data.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling an imaging apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising reading a sample image from among a plurality of sample images stored in a plurality of storage media.

19. (Currently Amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon computer-readable program code for controlling an imaging apparatus, the program code, when executed, causing the imaging apparatus to perform a method, said method comprising:

~~first computer-readable program code for~~ converting a currently viewed object ~~an optical~~ image captured by an optical imaging unit into ~~electronic~~ object image data;

~~second computer-readable program code for~~ reading from an external storage medium sample image data corresponding to a plurality of sample images;

~~third computer-readable program code for~~ selecting one of the plurality of sample images;

~~fourth computer-readable program code for~~ displaying on a monitor the currently viewed object image and the sample image ~~images~~ based on the object image data and the sample ~~electronic~~ image data, the monitor simultaneously displaying the sample image selected and the currently viewed ~~and an~~ object image corresponding to the object ~~based on electronic~~ image data, wherein said object image data is not yet stored on said external storage medium;

~~fifth computer-readable program code for~~ instructing to ~~record~~ store the ~~electronic~~ object image data obtained by the imaging unit ~~in~~ on the external storage medium that corresponds to the object image displayed by the monitor; and

~~sixth computer-readable program code for~~ saving, in the external storage medium, the ~~electronic~~ object image data such that the ~~electronic~~ object image data is associated with the sample image simultaneously displayed on the monitor with the currently viewed object image ~~according to said fifth computer-readable program code~~.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A recording medium according to Claim 19, ~~the~~ said method further comprising: ~~program code further comprising seventh computer-readable program code for~~

reading, from the recording medium, additional data associated with the sample image, the additional data including an imaging condition associated with the sample image read from the storage medium.

22. (Currently Amended) A recording medium according to Claim 19, said method further comprising: ~~wherein the second computer-readable program code allows~~

reading a sample image stored in a storage medium selected from a plurality of storage media ~~to be read~~ first.